

Behind the Badge

*Fairfax County Police Department
16th Edition, June 2012*

A police helicopter is shown from a low angle, flying towards the viewer at night. The helicopter's main rotor is blurred, indicating motion. Its headlights are on, creating a bright glow. The background is a dark blue sky. On the left side, a tall communication tower is visible. On the right side, a red light is visible.

*Welcome to Fairfax County,
N211FX!*

Table of Contents

16th Edition

Articles and Features

- 3 From the Chief
- 4 FCPD Helicopter Division Recieves First of Their New “Twins”
- 5 19th Annual Plane Pull
- 6 Automated License Plate Readers
- 7 Fair Oaks Station Construction
- 8 Civilian’s Corner
- 9 Holiday Anti-Theft Teams
- 9 Washington Regional Alcohol Program Awards
- 10 Retiree’s Corner
- 11 58th Academy Session Graduation
- 12 Chaplain’s Corner
- 12 In Memory
- 13 VIPs Corner
- 13 The Passing of PFC Ed Bowling

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From the Chief: Policing Models and the Community

by Colonel Dave Rohrer

The Board of Supervisors recently approved funding for well-deserved, and much needed, compensation increases in Fiscal Year 2013 for all merit employees, to include a 2.18 percent Market Rate Adjustment to be effective in July for all, full funding of merit and longevity steps for our sworn members, and a 2.5 percent performance-based pay increase for our civilian members to be effective in January 2013. Our almost singular focus for the past few months has been to advocate for increases, and I appreciate the Board's actions.

The County and our Department still face fiscal challenges over the next few years, but we are hopefully turning the corner toward recovery, albeit a moderate and perhaps uncertain one. However, we are facing a "new normal" - local government will not simply be returning to "business as usual." As the fiscal challenges ease slightly, we must now shift our focus to one of forward-looking.

Although our primary advocacy was for compensation this year, I began a dialogue with Board members and others as to our capacity to handle growth in areas such as South County, Reston, and Merrifield, and for the planned opening of the Silver Line in Tysons out to Reston in December 2013. We will require additional positions over time or we will be required to shift resources from other functions to Patrol to handle the workload. However, we have a responsibility to not just ask for more, but to ensure we are being efficient by better focusing on priorities, strategic planning, and effective performance measurement.

Yet, while gazing into the future, I find myself reflecting that as policing evolves we can never forget our most important resource and partner in performing our mission - the community. They are the one constant we must embrace and leverage.

Over the past few decades, the Department adopted a community-policing model. The term was never seemingly popular, and I was always struck by how many perceived the model as 'soft on crime,' which it is decidedly not. Frankly, although crime is affected by multiple factors, I believe effective community-policing has been one of the keys to the crime reductions experienced nationally.

Community-policing is not any single tactic, program, or strategy. Rather, it is a fundamental philosophy, one

that we need to reaffirm going forward. Specifically, we need to remember the core tenets of prevention, problem-solving, and partnerships.

More universally accepted has been the more recent intelligence-led policing model, one that we have also adopted. Notably, the two models are not mutually exclusive; intelligence-led policing is an added dimension to the community-policing paradigm. Both have problem-solving and ethical decision-making at their core, and both include and actively engage the community as a vital partner.

One other important tenet of each model is that not only real crime matters, but so too do community perceptions about crime - the "fear of crime." No matter how well we do in combatting crime and enhancing community safety, it is of little consequence if persons do not feel safe to walk on their street, or to allow their children to do so.

Effective policing is built on the foundation of mutual respect and trust between a community and a police department. The focus in intelligence-led policing is on analyzing and using information and data effectively, but what can be too easily overlooked is the need to cultivate and sustain the trust and partnership that fosters the providing of information to and from the community, the two-way flow that makes the models successful.

Fairfax County is blessed with strong and effective local government, to include public safety, as well as excellent schools, a strong business environment, and, most importantly, an incredibly diverse, engaged, well-educated, and supportive community.

We must constantly remind ourselves that the community expects, and deserves, to be informed and involved. We will advocate for resources to perform our mission, but we must always first remember that the community is, by far, the largest and most effective partner we can have in performing our core mission.



FCPD Helicopter Division Recieves First of Their New “Twins”

by Keith Dobuler

On Friday, December 9, 2011 a Bell 429 twin-engine helicopter designated “Fairfax 1”, arrived for the first time at the FCPD Heliport facility. This aircraft, and the second one to follow, has ushered in a new era of safety, efficiency, and technological advances in airborne law

enforcement. Designed to replace the department’s aging Bell 407’s, look for a complete story on the process, planning, and research that led to the acquisition of these remarkable aircraft in an upcoming edition of Behind the Badge.



The first of FCPD’s two new Bell 429 twin-engine helicopters, tail number N211FX, sits on the helipad, ready to respond to any number of police or medevac missions.

19th Annual Plane Pull

September 24, 2011



Special Olympics

Right and below: Members of the Fairfax County Police Department's team put their muscles to good use for the 19th Annual Dulles Day Plane Pull on September 24, 2011. Teams competed to pull an Airbus A310, weighing 164,000 pounds, 12 feet as quickly as possible. The event raised approximately \$135,000 for Special Olympics.



Automated License Plate Readers

by PFC Doug Coulter

A relatively new public safety tool that detects criminal activity and improves officer safety is proving to be a great help to the department. Through a Department of Homeland Security federal grant, there are now 24 Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) mounted on cars strategically located within all eight police districts in the county.

Each ALPR unit consists of two trunk-mounted digital cameras capable of reading 1,800 license plates per minute, regardless of the weather, or time of day or night. Each camera is connected to a small but powerful processor which uses proprietary software to translate the digital image captured by the camera into data. This data is then compared against a “hotlist” supplied by the Virginia State Police as part of its Help Eliminate Auto Theft or HEAT program. The hotlist has data from the National Crime Information Center typically consisting of stolen vehicles, stolen license plates, wanted individuals, and missing persons from across this country, Canada, and Mexico.

The data from each car is automatically compared to the hotlist and if a match is found the officer is notified within milliseconds. One of the major benefits of this technology is increased officer safety since officers know almost immediately when they are dealing with a wanted fugitive or suspected car thief. The ALPRs continue to read tags throughout each shift, place no demands on the officers, and provide both patrol officers and detectives rapid recognition of vehicles of special interest to law enforcement.

ALPR technology has already proven invaluable to the Fairfax County Police Department, aiding in numerous arrests and stolen vehicle recoveries. In one case an officer driving in the area of Franconia Road and Rose Hill Drive recently got a stolen vehicle alert from the ALPR on his cruiser. The 2008 Saturn, reported stolen from Winchester, fled into the City of Alexandria, but was detected again 10

minutes later on South Van Dorn Street. This time it was stopped and the driver was charged with grand larceny, driving while revoked, and possession with intent to distribute narcotics.

The ALPR system does have its detractors, chiefly those who believe the collection of information such as plate numbers and locations violates an individual’s privacy.



An Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR), mounted on the trunk of a cruiser.

The department limits access to the collected data, the sharing of data, and the retention of data beyond 365 days, except when information has evidentiary value as part of a specific investigation.

ALPR technology is an ever-evolving form of technology that will undoubtedly continue to develop new and more efficient methods of providing important instantaneous information to the law enforcement officer. The Fairfax County Police Department continues to seek out and employ advanced equipment such as the ALPR Technology in order to improve the efficiency of the departmental services provided to the residents of the county and maintain its reputation as a respected innovative and progressive police department.

Fair Oaks Station Construction

by PFC Tawny Wright

If you've driven down Route 50 near Fair Oaks Mall, you might've noticed a bit of construction taking place at the Fair Oaks District Station—one of several plans to rebuild or reconstruct aging police facilities in the county. A bond referendum was approved in 2006 to supply the funding for the new station and after years of design, planning and preparation, construction began last year. The station is being expanded from about 24,000 square feet to 45,000 square feet and will have two levels (the only two-story police station in the county).

Completed construction of the Fair Oaks station is anticipated by the end of the year. The Chief and those in the Resources Management Bureau thank all of the officers, supervisors, commanders and staff for their

patience and understanding while this project is underway. It should be worth the wait when you have lockers big enough to hide in and a gym with enough space to hold all of your exercise equipment!

The Reston and McLean Police Districts will also receive some love in the next few years. Work on the Reston District Police Station is expected to begin by the end of this year and should be completed in 2014. The station will be completely torn down and a new one will be built, increasing in size from about 16,000 square feet to approximately 34,000 square feet. Also around the same time, the McLean District Police Station will be expanded from its original size of approximately 21,600 square feet.



Construction on the Fair Oaks District Police Station will add a second level and increase its size from 24,000 to 45,000 square feet.

Civilian's Corner: Bob Fitzpatrick

by Lucy H. Caldwell

Bob Fitzpatrick builds winning teams. Over the past 30 years he's seen and done a lot: from attending autopsies and hauling blood-spattered cars away from crime scenes, to initiating programs targeting "road rage" when it first appeared in the '90s, to researching the latest, complex details of the Fair Labor Standards and Family Medical Leave Acts.

A native of McLean, Fitzpatrick worked as a sworn member of the FCPD for over 23 years, serving in a wide range of supervisory and command positions across the department, including Commander of the McLean District, the Traffic Division, the Administrative Support Bureau, Crime Scene, and TAC supervisor. He achieved the rank of Major before retiring to take a job in employee relations with the Fairfax County Department of Human Resources.

After six years with the county, he returned to the police department as the first Director of Personnel and Resources when that position was civilianized in 2010.

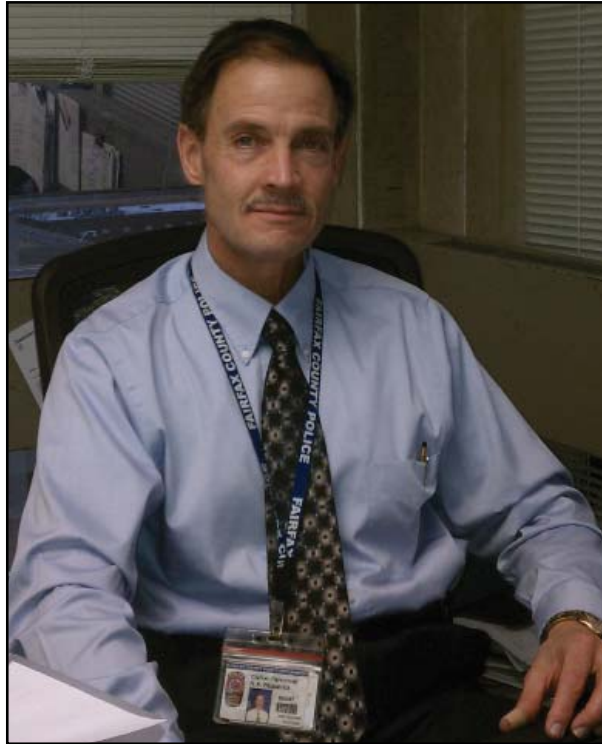
"It's an interesting position and a big responsibility," Fitzpatrick said. "Our office has some major responsibilities to help determine the makeup of the FCPD. Under fiscal constraints, how can we hire the best people who will meet the diverse needs our county demands?"

Fitzpatrick enjoys the work and his staff. "We've got a great group of people in our office. They want to help, especially when officers and their families face daunting challenges." These challenges can range from military deployment to the birth of a child.

"These are real issues and they are important to our personnel. I want our staff to make sure employees are educated about details that will ensure their pay and benefits during their changing status. We're here to help

people do the right thing to avoid experiencing problems in the future."

When he's not hovering over a computer keyboard in his office or attending work-related meetings and training,



Bob Fitzpatrick

Fitzpatrick can most likely be found in his favorite spot: the football field. As Commissioner of the Braddock Road Youth League and a coach for the Robinson Secondary School freshman team, he is driven to help young men find their paths to success through commitment and hard work.

Fitzpatrick finds this work rewarding and he's passionate about it. He sees strong similarities between football and police work, "Both require hard work; neither is easy. If it was easy then everyone would do them."

In his career, as well as his hobbies, Fitzpatrick is drawn to the idea that he can help others see value in themselves and

reach their maximum potential by working closely with others. He stresses that each member of the team needs every other player to work hard and they need to learn to trust the person next to them on the line.

"Both football and law enforcement are exciting, but things don't always go well, observes Fitzpatrick. "You keep your head up. You take the lessons, and move forward. In both activities, you can learn a lot from a bad day."

Fitzpatrick is the father of three sons, Robert, 22, Sean, 21, and Tim, 18. His wife, Sally, has been a shift supervisor at DPSC for the past 28 years. Between work, home and family, Fitzpatrick's life has been one of juggling and balance, but he continues to enjoy the challenge.

"Every day you give it your best shot; you work to the best of your ability and you never know where you'll end up."

Holiday Anti-Theft Teams

by Second Lieutenant Anthony Matos

Each holiday season, the Fairfax County Police Department trains and deploys groups of officers to combat an increase in crime around the major shopping centers throughout the county. Known as Holiday Anti-Theft Teams, they consist of officers from the district stations that encompass shopping districts. They receive additional hours of training to assist them in apprehending “serial shoplifting rings.” During the past two years, these teams have been responsible for over 400 arrests and over \$500,000 worth of recovered merchandise.

Officers learn techniques to differentiate between the everyday shopper and those who are in the stores to steal. Once the officers learn normal shopping behaviors within their respective malls, they look for shoppers displaying unusual behaviors and actions. Many officers look for shoppers carrying large bags from stores which do not exist within their shopping center. Some officers look for small groups entering a store at the same time who then typically work in concert with each other. Other behaviors focus on shoppers’ attempts to conceal themselves, the wearing of multiple layers of clothing to hide stolen garments, and the possession of pliers to use on tags.

Keying into these and other behaviors helps the officers locate and apprehend serial shoplifters who have plagued stores and shopping centers for decades. In 2010, the McLean Holiday Anti-Theft Team arrested a three-person shoplifting ring and recovered over \$120,000 in stolen merchandise from their hotel room.

A newer phenomenon officers have encountered involves the use of stolen identities. Although identity theft is nothing new, the ways criminals are gaining access to an innocent person’s money have definitely changed. In 2010, the McLean team saw a surge in iPhones and Blackberries being stolen from individuals, not stores. Serial rings infiltrated the wireless phone companies and opened new accounts with stolen identities. Once the phones were mined for bank account and credit card information, many wound up in New York where a dealer sold them to Asia for double the retail price in this country.

The men and women chosen to work on the Holiday Anti-Theft Teams need all the support and understanding they can get from their families and friends. They provide seven-day coverage to their assigned shopping centers, working holiday nights and weekends when everyone else

is enjoying seasonal events and festivities and spending time preparing for the holidays. So remember next holiday season when you’re scouring stores for that perfect gift, the watchful eyes of these specially trained officers are in the crowds around you, looking for thieves who want to separate you from your money.

Washington Regional Alcohol Program Awards



Sergeant Michael Tucker is recognized for Impaired Driving Prevention by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program 2011 Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence.

Retiree's Corner: FCRPA

by MPO James Dooley, (Ret.)

I appreciate the opportunity to write this article for Behind The Badge and to talk to you about the Fairfax County Retired Police Association (FCRPA).

The FCRPA was formed in 1976, by a group of retired Fairfax County police officers. As stated in our By Laws, "The purpose of the Association is to promote the goals and welfare of its members, to promote a harmonious and cooperative atmosphere in the community, to promote general goodwill and understanding, and to act as a local association of retired employees."

To that end, we strive to keep our members informed about pertinent issues and events, and offer support to those members and families in need. Paul Puff chairs our Health & Welfare Committee. He and his wife, Linda, do a remarkable job of staying in touch with members who are sick, and with assisting families when a member or spouse passes away. Our treasurer, Bonnie Kraut, also serves as our appointed representative to the active police association board.

In addition to currently serving as president of the FCRPA, I also serve as the elected trustee to the police retirement board. And, Jim Covell and Paul Puff do a good job of keeping up with retiree health care and other benefit issues.

Membership in the FCRPA is open to any Fairfax County police officer who has retired from the department and that makes us unique among police groups. Currently we have 625 members, 81 surviving spouses, and we list 165 deceased retirees and officers who died while still on the department.

Joining the FCRPA is simple and straightforward. Once a sworn officer retires from the department, the Chief's office provides the membership application and dues deduction form. Dues are \$15 per year, and can be

deducted automatically from November retirement checks. At the age of 75, our members are no longer required to pay dues.

While a number of retirees remain in the Northern Virginia / Metropolitan area, others in our association are spread out all over the country, particularly in South Carolina and Florida. Communicating with our members and spouses, and keeping the lines of communication open is a major function of the FCRPA. Email is our primary means of communication. There are two separate lists administered by two of our retirees. Bill Conner handles the 'wuz-fuzz' email communications, and a few years ago, retiree Jim Covell started a 'Google Group' list. We also have a Web



Jim Dooley addresses attendees of the Retired Police Association's 2011 Annual Meeting. Other attendees pictured: (clockwise) Bud Gaylord, John Thomas and Joe Higgs.

site, www.fcrpa.org where useful information, photos, upcoming event notices, and links to other items of interest are posted.

We believe any time a group of retirees gets together, it's a good thing, so we offer a variety of opportunities to mix and mingle. Just about every Friday, any local retiree is welcome to bring a bag lunch and meet at the association hall for lunch. There is a monthly breakfast meeting in

Continued on Page 11

Fairfax County Retired Police Association

continued from Page 10

Warrenton, and a monthly luncheon in Stephens City. Also, Jill Gerald does a great job planning a monthly luncheon at the association hall for surviving spouses. As for functions and events, each year we host a picnic in the spring and a dinner in the fall at the association hall for all members, spouses, and surviving spouses.

Additionally, each year in the fall we have a Saturday morning set as range qualification day for retirees. These events are all well attended and we are noticing a lot of younger retirees now participating.

And, thanks to Steve Danzig and Danny Kerr, every year – usually in the spring – there is a luncheon for retirees and spouses held somewhere in Florida that usually includes a round of golf or some other fun activity.

We firmly believe that there is strength in numbers. As you can see, we do a lot to keep our membership connected and informed, and hope that when the time comes, you will not hesitate to join the FCRPA.

58th Academy Session Graduation

March 25, 2012



Front row R-L: Siobhan Chase, Elizabeth Richitt, Stephanie Rybnick, Jessica Blaine, David Neil, Matthew Gee, Christina Rossi, John Dejacques, Jessica McClendon, Jennifer Supinger, Leon Turner

Second row R-L: Nicholas Goings, Colin Ford, Brian Pak, Anthony Pantalena, Vincent Pullicino, Jahan Brown, Marian Nedeltchev, Blake Tremont, Bradley Chiz, Melanie Anderson, Jonathan Perryman, Caitlin O'Malley, Israel Latorre, John Roque

Third row R-L: Christopher Taylor, Adam Henry, Tony Ayoub, Charles Findley, Aaron Waple, Steven Monahan, Michael Mathwin, Thomas Mey, Michael Walton, Carl Biggs, Daryl Shifflett, Christopher Johnson, Steven Carter, Kyle Fairchild, James Whitmer

Back row R-L: Joel Lucas, Robert Kleinsworth, Matthew Flaska, Hashanee Williams, Jeffrey Mauro, Daniel Boring, Rashid Roberts, Robert Wardrop, James Burleson, Ryan Garnier, Robert Gerhard, Michael Thompson, Nicholas Andariese, Coner Tracy, Gibril Maydane, Patrick O'Neill

Chaplain's Corner: Police Week Touches All of Us

by Chaplain Jeri Fields, Mount Vernon District Station

As a member of the law enforcement community you and your loved ones constitute a very special family. We are family; one that protects and cares for one another.

When a member of the law enforcement family dies in a line of duty incident, a common and somewhat expected response is one of deep pain that is related to the loss for the immediate family and other survivors, including you.



Chaplain Jeri Fields, Mount Vernon District Station

Police Week is an anniversary that touches all of us. The week may be challenging, especially when reliving the death of a close friend or recalling specifics about a tragedy that took the life of one who served the community. Common grief responses may include nightmares or flashbacks of an incident; headaches, sleeplessness; sadness or depression; anger and being less tolerant of others; forgetfulness and fatigue.

Knowing such responses often exist, the following guidelines and strategies are suggested to help survivors, such as you, move through the grief process and the difficult days of Police Week.

- Set aside some time to reminisce and tell favorite stories or memories about the person who has died.
- Find ways to raise awareness about law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.
- Attend the prayer vigil on the Mall at the memorial site.
- If you belong to a faith community, talk with a clergy member about your experience and the feelings associated with it.
- Take good care of yourself – Remember, alcohol is actually a depressant. It may initially reduce the pain, but does not resolve it.

- Remember the past. Live in the present. Have hope for the future.
- Feel free to engage in conversation with representatives from Peer Support or one of the Fairfax County Chaplains. We are here for you.

May God bless you in all you do. Be safe and stay safe.

In Memory

Officer Richard W. "Pete" Peters (Ret.)

Date of Passing: February 19, 2012

Richard W. Peters was born June 28, 1931, in Washington, D.C. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War, serving at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He was a member of the military police and played in the Army/Navy band. After serving his tour of duty, Pete joined the Fairfax County Police Department in November 1957, and was assigned to the Patrol Division. His assignments included the McLean District Station. He retired in July 1977.

Upon his retirement he moved to Florida to live out his dream of owning and running a charter fishing boat. He loved to hunt and fish. Pete was an entertainer, loving to play his banjo and make people laugh. He played live radio shows and music festivals around the country.

Pete is survived by his wife, Joan, three daughters, one son, ten grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, and his dog, Snert.

VIPS Corner

by Donna Spiewak

Spring is in the air all over the area, and, especially within the Department's VIPS Program. During this time of the year, we conduct our annual review of volunteer hours completed during the previous year, and analyze the assignments of current VIPS to see if there are ways to offer them additional projects and assignments.

The primary goals of completing this review are to highlight the many contributions of our volunteers; ascertain whether they are complying with the minimum requirement of 10 hours per quarter/40 hours per year for VIPS and 288 hours per year for APOs; compile the cumulative hours for all VIPS and APOs for the annual Volunteers Award Ceremony; and to determine the status of individuals unable to maintain their active standing within the programs.

Each year, we have an ebb and flow of volunteers throughout the year. People who make changes in their personal and professional lives find they are not able to continue to commit their valuable free time to volunteering. Occasionally, we also have a volunteer who feels they're not being fully utilized and becomes complacent. At that point, several significant events occur:

- The individual contacts their supervisor only to be told there are no projects forthcoming. Conversely, the supervisor does not contact their volunteers to provide new tasks.
- The individual stops seeking assignments and decreases their volunteer hours. There is a real disconnect between volunteer and supervisor and no communication occurs.
- Worst case scenario, the individual resigns from the program citing lack of communication, new assignments, and failure to complete required volunteer hours for the year.

In most of these cases, communication can mitigate the problem and it's incumbent upon both the FCPD supervisor and the volunteer to keep the communication channels open. Supervisors, please keep in mind that the hours people have to volunteer may not exactly fit your schedule, but, with a little ingenuity, you'd be surprised at the positive affect working with the person will have on the volunteer and the project!

We are constantly seeking new opportunities to offer all our volunteers in order to keep them motivated and interested in continuing to freely give their time to the Department. There are over 90 VIPS and 100 APOs available at any one time to offer their skills and experience. We strongly urge you to take advantage of this valuable resource. If you have projects that VIPS could assist you with, please email me at donna.spiewak@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Passing of PFC Ed Bowling



Police Officer First Class Edward Bowling

Date of Passing: February 7, 2012

Police Officer First Class Edward Bowling passed away on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife and 4-year-old son. The Fairfax County Police Honor Guard and the United States Marine Corps assisted as his family and friends laid him to rest on Friday, February 10, 2012.



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